

RESEARCH PROBLEMS AND GOALS
FOR THE ADDISON PLANTATION ARCHEOLOGICAL PROJECT

5/25/87 Working Version

Research Problem 1

Defining and understanding the effects that adaptational adjustments to the changing agricultural economy of the Tidewater and the Nation had on this particular Plantation from the early 1700s to the late 1800s, approximately 200 years.

Research Goals

- 1) identify the changes that have occurred in farm economy in this area and the effects they have had on farmers in general, and on wealthy farmers in particular, in terms of effective strategies for adaptation.
- 2) identify a series of periods in which change was either fast or slow in terms of the economic factors.
- 3) identify how the owners of Addison Plantation responded to the various economic pressures at the different periods.

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Research Problem 2

Defining and understanding the changing life styles of the different groups on the plantation during different economic periods.

Research Goals

- 1) identify evidence from the documents and/or the archeology of a change in lifestyle, as measured by archeological and documentary indicators of wealth of the planters during the different periods of economic change.
- 2) identify evidence from the documents and/or the archeology of changes in lifeways of the slaves during these periods and if such changes correspond to those of the other groups on the plantation.
- 3) identify evidence of the existence of overseers and determine if any changes occur in their lifeways over time and if such changes correspond to those of the other groups on the plantation.

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Research Problem 3

The study of the organization of space on the plantation around the manor house. Did the world view of the planters (read Georgian for the early owners) affect the organization of space of the manor house itself, the relationships and placement of the various farm buildings, and slave houses, and the gardens? Did the changes in the kind of farm it was affect the organization of the farm outbuildings? Did the restricted area on the ridge affect the organization of space?

Research Goals

- 1) Identify the layout of the earliest manor house (if that is what it is) and compare it to the manor house represented by the existing brick cellar.
- 2) Identify the location of the different structures on the site.
- 3) Identify the function of the identified structures.
- 4) Identify the nature and layout of the garden area.
- 5) Determine how closely the two earliest owners could be associated with the social and political order that selected the georgian style as a representation of its class.

Note: Specific hypotheses: a) If Feature 6 is an early manor house it would have a more vernacular plan layout than the brick cellar manor which is Georgian because the influence of Georgian style did not arrive up the Potomac until later. (poorly stated)
b) Social relationship module reported by Upton for Tidewater Virginia South of the James, will be reflected in the layout of Feature 6 structure.

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Research Problem 4

Defining and understanding the nature of the slave culture at this plantation and what insights can be gained from this evidence about the development of slave culture in the Maryland portion of the Tidewater.

Research Goals

- 1) Determine how similar or different the evidence of the lifeways are to other Chesapeake slave sites.
- 2) Determine the nature of slave structures.
- 3) Determine through historical and archeological evidence whether Garrow hypothesis that slaves of wealthier individuals were better off is a feasible hypothesis.

Note: Some specific hypotheses: a) slave material culture should be less distinctive in Maryland than in Virginia or in the further south because of the fewer number of slaves that lived together on one plantation and because of the mixture of people from different African backgrounds (see Mc Donald and book on Potomac River Slaves). To implement this hypothesis we would need information on slaves in this area, to determine whether assumptions about composition were correct as well as comparative material from elsewhere in Maryland.

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Research Problem 5

Defining and understanding the role of tenants on the Plantation and their lifestyle.

Research Goal

- 1) Identify the roll of tenants and whre they lived on the site during different time periods.

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Research Problem 6

Testing the application of and usefulness of various analytical techniques for addressing the above problems.